GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6569
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
NATIONAL AGRICULTURE POLICY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agriculture Policy envisaged a growth rate exceeding 4 percent per annum in the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the extent to which it has been achieved during each of the last three years;

(d) the reasons behind not achieving the targeted growth in agriculture sector; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targeted growth in agriculture sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The National Agricultural Policy (NAP) has envisaged a growth rate in excess of 4 per cent per annum in the agriculture sector. The NAP has also underscored the importance of growth based on efficient resource use, and equity, i.e. widespread growth across regions and farmers. The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) has set the target of 4.0 per cent growth per annum in agriculture during 2002-07. The State-wise details of annual average growth rate set for the Tenth Plan (2002-07) are given in the Annexure.

(c): According to the data released by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the growth rate in agriculture, including allied sectors of forestry & logging, and fishing, was negative (-7%) in 2002-03 while it was 9.6 % in 2003-04. According to the advance estimates released by the CSO, growth rate in agriculture, including allied sectors, in 2004-05 is 1.1%. The average annual growth rate for the first three years of the Tenth Plan works out to 1.2 %.

(d): Since about 60 per cent of the net sown area is rain-fed, agricultural production is heavily influenced by rainfall. The year 2002-03 witnessed a severe drought that affected several States in the country. The favourable rainfall from the southwest monsoon in 2003-04 boosted agricultural production. However, the rainfall from the south-west monsoon in the year 2004-05 was deficient across time and space. Though the deficiency in rainfall from the south-west monsoon in 2004 was less serious than that in 2002 both for the whole season and for the agriculturally important month of July, the kharif crop production in 2004-05 was adversely affected by deficient rainfall.

(e): With a view to increasing agricultural production, the Government have identified thrust areas for focused and priority attention, which include agricultural credit, irrigation, horticulture, and marketing reforms. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscored the importance of efforts aimed at turning the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to farm households. The other areas highlighted in the Budget include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission with focus on backward and forward linkages, and development / strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.

ANNEXURE
State-wise Growth Target for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07)

(Annual average in %)

State/Union Territories	Agriculture
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.00
Andhra Pradesh	3.05
Arunachal Pradesh	4.00
Assam	3.82
Bihar	3.75
Chandigarh	-2.00
Chhattisgarh	3.00
Delhi	-12.21

Goa	-0.90
Gujarat	4.03
Haryana	4.07
Himachal Pradesh	4.55
Jammu & Kashmir	4.20
Jharkhand	3.00
Karnataka	4.99
Kerala	3.05
Madhya Pradesh	4.00
Maharashtra	3.56
Manipur	3.59
Meghalaya	4.00
Mizoram	2.00
Nagaland	4.00
Orissa	4.07
Pondicherry	1.10
Punjab	4.07
Rajasthan	4.50
Sikkim	5.00
Tamil Nadu	3.54
Tripura	3.90
Uttranchal	3.50
Uttar Pradesh	4.67
West Bengal	5.09

All India	4.00